

Human Events *A Weekly Analysis for the American Citizen*

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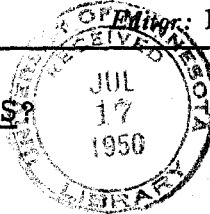
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Editor: FRANK C. HANIGHEN

WHAT PRICE THE PHILIPPINES?

by Bonner Fellers



HUMAN EVENTS, on May 24, reported grave concern in official Washington circles over the disturbing situation in the Philippines. It pointed out that criticism of the Manila Government follows a line suspiciously similar to that taken by certain Left Wing publications about the Chinese Nationalists before their defeat by the Communists.

These attacks on the rule of President Quirino emphasize corruption, the need for agrarian reform and the gravity of the rebellion of the Communist-led Hukbalahaps, described as an "agrarian reform movement". Following this particular emphasis on the Philippine situation by various American publications, other sections of our press have offered a rather different picture of the plight of our former possession.

What is the truth about the Philippines today? I have spent eight years of my military career in the "islands"; watched the Liberation from Japanese domination in 1944-45; and have since kept closely in touch with Philippine conditions. It is my hope to present a factual report on the condition of a people who value our friendship, and whose fidelity to us we should prize.

America must never forget the complete loyalty of the Filipinos to our cause when the Japanese attacked the Philippines in 1941, nor the fierce resistance made against the Japanese occupation in subsequent years. I saw Manila liberated -- and destroyed in the throes of that liberation. Yet I never heard a Filipino complain, nor express regret for the stand which the Philippines made with us against a savage enemy. Today war flames in Korea and the world situation is grave. The United States needs friends. In the Philippines we have them, but they need our help.

II

The Filipinos are endeavoring to rise from the prostration of war. The Japanese destroyed most of the enterprises, utilities, and communications. What little was left standing we, in our retreat to Bataan or during the Liberation, unavoidably destroyed. Agriculture was paralyzed principally because four million water buffalo -- the power plant for the rice paddy -- were slaughtered. Eighty per cent of the cities were burned to the ground.

Following the Liberation, new, American-backed Philippine pesos were pumped into the local economy by our Government. As there was

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little to buy with the new money, prices sky-rocketed. Lawlessness, banditry and the abandon of people released from the ravages of war did the rest. Corruption set in.

During the Occupation the Japanese tortured to death many of the capable Filipino leaders. There has always been a shortage of leadership because until recently the Philippines never ran its own affairs.

It takes time, leadership and discipline for a disorganized population, which had been armed clandestinely and which had suffered the tortures of war, to return to normal, peaceful life. For nearly four years the American Government had smuggled arms to guerrillas by submarine. We had encouraged sniping; putting firearms to use was a patriotic service. Widespread unemployment, impoverishment, and a habit of being careless with firearms all contributed to continued lawlessness after liberation. Much of the present disorder -- attributed to the Communist Hukbalahaps -- is due to this background.

III

Many charges of corruption in and out of government are well-founded. Corruption, however, is not confined to the Philippine Government, nor to China, to which the Philippines are compared. It is prevalent in the Far East and indeed we have not escaped the taint of corruption in the United States. Today we have two Congressmen in jail; a number of Administration politicians are under fire or investigation. Less self-righteousness on the part of Americans is in order.

President Quirino's recent letter to all department heads in which he directed them to cleanse their departments of graft within 30 days or be subject to the "risk of separation from the service and to the penalty which the law prescribes" should bring improvement.

The Hukbalahap movement is a real menace. But its magnitude has been exaggerated and its agrarian reform aspect has been misrepresented. It is not true, as has been asserted, that this revolt is one of "agrarian reformers" against a standpat "reactionary" government.

After his election as President, Manuel Roxas instituted a policy of attraction toward the Huks by guaranteeing the tenants 70 per cent of the crop they raised. It developed immediately, however, that agrarian reform was not the primary aim of Huk Communist leaders; their objective was -- and is -- to create chaos and overthrow the Government. After the war the Philippine Constabulary -- hastily gathered together and trained for police work only -- was ill-prepared to deal with these Communist-led, experienced Huk outlaws.

In April of this year President Quirino turned the Huk job over to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Ten Battalion Combat Teams were organized especially to unlock Huk guerrilla resistance. But the Armed Forces are doing much more. Public and Troop Information Sections are being trained; modern psychological warfare methods are being studied and implemented. Leaflets, distributed in Huk areas, are scientifically prepared and compelling in their appeal. Not all Huks are Communist; some were drafted forcibly; others are temporary bandits who plied their trade against the Japanese and who may return to normal life; others are criminal outlaws who will never surrender. Obviously, it would be wrong to eradicate the entire Huk rank and file by force. As Secretary of Defense Kangleon on June 4, 1950, explained, the Army has adopted a policy of using "force where force is unavoidable, and by extending good will where it will beget us good will".

The policy of combining the mailed fist with one of "attraction" is succeeding. A number of Huks with quantities of firearms have surrendered. Local people in Huk infested areas are being won over by the Government, and no guerrilla movement can long survive without support of the local population. There is a shortage of military equipment among the Battalion Combat Teams which, if supplied, would enable them to solve the Huk problem within a reasonable time -- substantially within the year as promised by the Secretary of National Defense.

Not long ago, Mr. Tillman Durdin, New York Times reporter, spent a week with a unit of the Filipino Army serving in the Hukbalahap infested areas in Luzon. He wrote: "Given political and economic stability in the country, I see no reason why the Hukbalahap can't eventually be cleaned up. I feel the Government thoroughly dominates the situation. There is still small scale Huk activity over an extensive area, but there is no grave nor widespread disruption of normal activity anywhere I visited."

IV

Although the Philippines is the richest land under the sun and blessed with almost unlimited natural resources of great strategic value, the domestic economy is today badly dislocated. In 1941, the Philippines purchased \$1 million worth of American goods. They were able to balance nicely this import with exports. But the war destroyed the means to produce and exports have fallen far below normal. The cost of purchasing the means to re-establish production is almost prohibitive. In 1948 the Philippines spent \$257 million in the United States,

principally to accelerate their lagging production. This unfavorable trade balance depressed their economy to a dangerous level.

In addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars pumped into the Philippines by the American Armed Forces, our Government has paid \$520 million in war damage claims -- enough to replace about 10 per cent of the losses. Also, the Philippine Government has made \$258 million available for rehabilitation. The Philippine economy is starting, very slowly, to move in the right direction.

A free Philippines, economically sound, is an essential element in the security of our position in the Pacific. The Aleutians, Japan, Okinawa, Formosa and the Philippines form a vast counter-reconnaissance screen off the coast of Asia. Through this chain of islands, entrance to and egress from the Continent may be controlled. Possession of this screen by Red forces would deny all access to Asia from the Pacific; it would permit Red air and naval forces to control the ocean approaches.

On the other hand, if we hold the screen, from bases which the United States has already built, our air and sea power can sweep Asiatic coasts from Indonesia to the far reaches of the Arctic. The Philippines are the southernmost bastion of this screen, key to Asia and the Far East. Here is a friendly base -- the anchor position in the line holding the Reds out of the Pacific. It is especially essential that the Formosa link of the chain remain in friendly hands. In war, were the Red Air Force to base on Formosa, the Philippines would be within easy air striking range. Our shipping routes to the Philippines would also be endangered.

The people of the United States must keep in mind that the Philippines is largely a Christian country whose people are devout and willing to fight for the same ideology which we are determined to preserve. Their loyalty has been tried and proven in war.

Whatever local disturbances President Quirino faces, the United States, in its own best interest, should co-operate in resolving them. It is not a question of American troops. It is a need for weapons, for officer training and mutually beneficial economic aid.

The Philippines must not go the way of China!

Brigadier General Bonner Fellers (ret'd) first served in the Philippines in 1921; was with MacArthur during the formation of the Philippine Army; has known intimately the four Philippine Presidents and other leaders.

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By Frank C. Hanighen

July 12, 1950



THE BIG PUSH: Last week this column described the desperate efforts by the Administration to conceal its responsibility for the mess in Korea. This week appears a greater struggle (to which the "cover up" effort is but a subsidiary); namely, the scramble to control the President of the United States.

The subsidiary struggle has ended in a stalemate. Taft had his mordant say on the floor of the Senate; and the Scripps Howard papers, in an excellent piece by James Daniel (July 6), gave a fully documented picture of the miserable errors of Administration spokesmen, fuglemen in the press and columnists on the subject of Korea. (The piece was adorned with a photo of Taft, wearing a broad smile.) But the Administration agents in the press were more numerous and have apparently neutralized the criticism. The main struggle, however, remains to be decided.

Today, the Fair Dealers are working overtime to prevent "Harry" from being taken over by the military and allied civilian circles. By the grapevine, we learn that virtual panic seized the Fair Deal cliques when, at the historic Blair House conference, Truman reversed Acheson and emerged arm in arm with his generals and admirals. It is well known that the former Captain in the AEF cannot resist a general; his admiration for Marshall (to the amusement of those who really knew the former Chief of Staff) led to the latter's appointment as Secretary of State. All this, the Fair Dealers knew well, and the realization -- it is reported -- resulted in hasty conferences in certain houses in Georgetown.

As a result, there has been a renewed drive by the columnists against Louis Johnson, Secretary of Defense -- possibly with the objective of replacing him by some Fair Deal puppet comparable to former Secretary Patterson. There has been a steady barrage of tart remarks about the military in general. And there has developed a press campaign against General Douglas MacArthur -- the object being to make him the "goat", if the Korea venture should end in a Dunkirk.

All this has bearing on the imposition of controls on the economy. The tactics, decided upon at the Georgetown conference, were to slow up the use of controls for the moment. Not that the camarilla objects to controls; it simply wants to get set so that it, rather than the military, will run them. Meanwhile, many observers feel that some sort of civilian over-all commission will be soon proposed, to run the economy during the present phase, and that the camarilla will name the men to staff it, just as the Happy Hot Dogs were selected to run similar commissions during the last war. Indeed, a few observers profess to believe that such a set-up has already been outlined; but of that we can now find no confirmation.

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JAPANESE ARMY? Military experts in Washington find in the proposal for the creation of a 75,000-man Japanese constabulary more than meets the eye. According to these experts, the MacArthur proposal, and its favorable reception by the Yoshida Government, means that the force will be no mere police body, but will be organized to fight as a real Japanese army beside U.S. troops.

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CONTROL OF IDEAS: Edna Lonigan writes -- As the war grows in intensity, attempts will be made to reimpose controls in all the vital fields: finance, man power,

food, etc. -- and ideas. The crucial struggle in this new war may well be over the control of ideas throughout the world. Just now there is much publicity over proposals for an expanded Voice of America organization to present our case abroad.

But how -- it is asked -- can such broadcasts prove really effective, since the State Department must formulate and phrase these ideas, and since that Department is run by the "men of Yalta"? Discredited policies still remain to hamper constructive steps in psychological warfare. For instance, the "men of Yalta" have succeeded in one matter which may work incalculable harm to future generations. We refer to the inexcusable "order" forbidding Chiang Kai-shek to continue his guerrilla raids on the Chinese mainland. Suppose we had made it a condition of our participation in World War II that Churchill stop his attacks on the Continent? It makes about as much sense. In the same category is the State Department policy of preventing Chiang's troops from being used in Korea. It should be remembered that Chiang was actively in the war against Japan and this kept that war from being a war of white race against yellow race. Today, the order immobilizing Chiang's forces make the war in Asia one of race against race -- a set-up for Communist propaganda. The only sound policy for the U.S. is to welcome the wartime Chinese allies and be grateful that we can make it a war of ideas and not of races.

One of the taunts thrown at Republicans is that they cut appropriations for the Voice of America. But, they did so on the ground that certain elements in the Department could not be trusted; and also that the character of such broadcasts was woefully inept. Now, it is additionally pointed out that such ventures in propaganda can be nothing else than "weak tea", in a "strong" situation. They must be, for the reason (if no other) that the State Department cannot, for diplomatic reasons, sponsor any really hard-hitting psychological warfare broadcasts or other propaganda. Such moves in "psychological warfare" -- it is urged -- should be under some extra-governmental (and extra-UN) organization which could freely use the word ammunition provided by refugee groups (from behind the Iron Curtain) to stir up the growing underground in the satellite countries. The ballyhoo and money grabbing in this whole matter should be thrust aside and the proposals be placed on a new and realistic basis.

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WAR AND TAXES: (Edna Lonigan reports from Capitol Hill.) Before the Korean invasion broke, the Fair Deal majority of the House Ways and Means Committee had brought in a tax bill in which excise taxes were cut a little, and the loss was made up by added taxes on corporations. The Republicans presented an excellent minority report, in which they caustically examined the proposals of the Administration in about 15 pages. This report, of course, received virtually no publicity. The Korean crisis changes the basic issues little if at all.

The Democratic bill was designed to bow to the popular demand for excise cuts but ensure the Fair Deal spending by an appeal for added taxes on corporations. There is no reason but demagoguery for raising taxes on corporate incomes. Corporations are "middlemen" in the production of income and they distribute that income to individuals where it can be taxed in the hands of the final recipients. The tax bill lowers taxes on some small incomes of corporations, but raises those on larger incomes. But small incomes can not be equated with small corporations, nor large incomes with large corporations. Comparatively small incomes often appear in old well-established firms which practice careful accounting; while large incomes may be earned by new firms in the early stages of growth, where they need all their reserves to get solidly entrenched for depressions. In short, this tax policy makes little sense.

The Republicans have done well to raise the fundamental issues on sound taxation. They will do better if they keep them open during the debate on war funds.

There is no reason whatever why the Korean crisis should be made the cover for an extension of National Socialist taxation principles while the taxpayer is off guard. Easy money does not win wars.

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SOCIALIZED MEDICINE: Always provided that war abroad does not crowd everything else to the wall, it is now clear that one big issue on which the Democrats will campaign next fall is compulsory health insurance. Expertly designed lithographed material is going out from Democratic Headquarters. Chairman Boyle's weekly letter (June 24) to Party workers not only lays down the line to be followed in the precincts; it dramatically emphasizes the undiminished influence of Michael Marks Davis, for 40 years a medical care bushwhacker and one of the most fabulous propagandists and wirepullers in our history.

Davis is the spark plug of the Committee for the Nation's Health, acknowledged by Boyle as the Democratic National Committee's source of wisdom in socialized medicine. The announcement a few days ago of the American Medical Association's intention of spending more than a million dollars in the fall campaign drew Boyle's fire, but hardly a whisper from Davis. He doesn't need to whisper any more; others do it for him. He has been reaching for the AMA's jugular for many years and believes that the hour is now at hand.

(Incidentally, until August, 1949, at least, Davis' Committee letterhead included, along with the names of Mrs. Roosevelt and Chester Bowles, that of Russell Davenport, promoter of the bleeding heart Republican Advance which we discussed last week. How Republicans will feel about a man who plays both sides of the political street we don't know, but we predict that they will have a bellyful of Davenport before they're through.) Simultaneously with all this, the House Civil Service Committee's interim report (No. 2457, June 30) on "administrative indecision, lack of fixed responsibility and authority, faulty budget structure and uncontrolled personnel practices" in the Federal Security Agency -- the agency which will boss compulsory health insurance if we get it -- points up the picture. The medical care issue is hot all along the line.

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THE PRESS AND THE WELFARE STATE: American newspapers are supposed to be the best in the world and one of the baffling mysteries of our time is the fact that the growth of the Welfare State here, as a newspaper story, has been bungled from the start. Compulsory health insurance is a perfect illustration. For years organized medicine fulminated. Newspapers faithfully printed the fulminations. For years both the New and Fair Deals have been issuing glutinous handouts on the blessings of health insurance. Papers faithfully printed the handouts. Scarcely ever has it occurred to the newspapers that independent study and reporting of an agency that employs 36,000 persons and spends \$2 billion a year of tax money might reveal some eye openers.

Result: The history of compulsory health insurance and other items in the welfare calendar are less understood in this country than the theory of nuclear fission! Examples: Everybody knows about Oscar Ewing, Administrator since 1947 and the Administration's mouthpiece on welfare. Few know anything about Wilbur Cohen, the behind-the-scenes welfare fixer, nor about Isidore Falk, Michael Davis' protégé, who goes to the White House to help write Truman's Presidential Health Messages and who has been chief architect of the long series of medical care bills since 1939.

Everybody will presently know about the Conference on the Aging which Ewing will stage this coming August with Maude Adams, Grandma Moses, the New England folk painter, General George Marshall and other oldsters brought to Washington to prove that life begins at 70. Few will guess that one of the purposes of this Conference is to smother the investigation of Old Age and Survivors Insurance which the Senate called for on June 20.

Book Events

Men Without Faces: The Communist Conspiracy in the U.S.A., by Louis Francis Budenz. New York: Harper and Brothers. \$3.50. Reviewed by Freda Utley.

"The master key to the Soviet Conquest of the United States might well be our own complacency." The treatment which this book has received points up the truth of this quotation from it. You will not find it on the best-seller lists; nor has it received the front page reviews accorded by the New York Times and Herald-Tribune book review sections to the ignorant and trivial outpourings of John Gunther and his kind. This valuable and enlightening exposé of the Communist conspiracy in America has either received the "silent treatment" or been dismissed with less than faint praise. The crypto-Communists no longer wield the same influence as formerly in the world of letters, but the anti-anti-Communists now perform the same service for Moscow. They look upon the ex-Communists as moral perverts and regard their revelations in much the same way as the Victorians regarded sex: as just too indecent for public discussion. Thus the American public is kept in ignorance of the clear and present danger which threatens the Republic.

Budenz' book reveals just how the Communists succeeded in exerting so powerful an influence over intellectuals, trade unions and businessmen, and over American foreign policy. It is as if, during a war, the whole picture of the enemy's strategy, arms, designs, and resources, and a complete list of its spies in our midst, had been revealed to us by a member of the opposing General Staff. Unfortunately, however, either our exaggerated sense of fair play, or our complacency, leads us to ignore the information.

Budenz writes that he is prevented from naming the "400 concealed Communists" in Government or functioning as editorial writers, actors, authors, educators, radio commentators and script writers, and the like, whom he could expose. He gives a long list of prominent people, whose names continually appear as sponsors of the Communist fronts which rope in the innocents to do yeoman service for Stalin. But, as he points out, the Red intellectuals enjoy a special immunity, thanks to the laws which make it libelous to call a man a Communist, although it is not criminal for him to be one. Thus we have ourselves extended the Iron Curtain to protect the Communists in our midst. Stalin's spies and saboteurs and propagandists cannot be exposed for fear of libel actions.

Lovers of crossword puzzles may try to guess the names of the people in the Administration, the universities, and among authors, radio commentators, journalists, and scientists whom Budenz describes, but dares not name. His chapter on "The Capture of the Innocents" explains just how "some of our best minds are moved around by the Communists like pawns". As the Communists long ago discovered, "Those who are wise in their own specialized field are often children politically." Thus the Party is able to exert "remote control" over our scientists and writers as easily as it extracts money from millionaires and their foundations for the purpose of destroying America. He tells how the Communists, in performing their Moscow-assigned task of driving America out of the Pacific, managed to exert "secret influence" over General Marshall without his knowing it; and how, during the war, they had Harry Hopkins asking their advice on U. S. policy toward Stalin.

Reading this book, one is struck by the fact that the Communists are past masters of the science of psychological warfare. Whereas our Administration assumes that, given a chicken in every pot, the Communist menace will disappear, Moscow knows that men do not live by bread alone. They are lured, pushed, inveigled or shoved into doing Stalin's dirty work by playing upon their vanity and ambitions, or upon their fears, racial hatreds and prejudices; or by supplying their deep felt need of a religion by giving them Stalin to worship as a demi-god.

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